



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

Meeting Date: January 25, 2008

Meeting Location: Vigo County DCS
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Council Members Present: David Uberto, Regional Manager, Region 8; Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Vigo County Director; Katie Edington, Vermillion/Parke County Director; Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA, Vigo County

Council Members Absent: Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo County; James/Linda Scarbrough, Vigo County Foster Parent; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke; Hon. Joseph Trout, Clay

Others in Attendance: Peggy Weber, ISU Dept. of Social Work; Suzy Cole, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Heidi Wheeler, Clay/Sullivan DCS Director; Mike Goodwin, Sullivan County DCS Supervisor; Amanda Ross, ISU Dept. of Social Work Intern; Emily Owens, Vigo County Wraparound; Nyala Bolen, Friends of Families; Rita Kaperak, H.E.L.P. Parent Representative; Angie Atkinson, H.E.L.P. Parent Representative; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center; Christine Shannon, Institute of Applied Research; Lynne Rump, Southwest Indiana Regional Youth Village; T.J. Brink, Southwest Indiana Regional Youth Village; Carmen Young, Resource Residential Treatment Center; Janet Daniels, National Youth Advocate Program.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:09 A.M.

Dave Uberto welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were read from the October 26, 2007 meeting. There was a correction in Item #6 Additional Business section, Options: The next to last sentence should read \$321.52 is the PRTF and Medicaid pays 62%. The correction was noted and made.

1. County Director and other Region 8 Personnel Update

Heidi Wheeler accepted the job as the director for Clay/Sullivan. Congratulations were extended to her from Dave and everyone from Region 8. We just hired six (6) positions in Vigo County, and two (2) in Vermillion and they are now getting cases assigned to them. One position was filled in Clay from a transfer coming from Vigo starting in

February. One position is still open in Sullivan County. We have a new supervisor position to be filled in Vigo waiting approval from Central Office. We also have another supervisor position on the job bank that became available by Heidi Wheeler.

2. Peer Coach Training Update

We are very busy with Peer Coach Training. We were able to get back on track by Jerry Glover coming in from Alabama. All six FCMs (Penny Bluebaum, Robin Burke, Jennie Bush, Lori Dickison, Jackie Hofmann, and Andrea Williams) are trained as peer coaches along with Pam Connelly and Heidi Wheeler as Peer Coach Consultants. They will be going to Indianapolis on February 1st for a consultant meeting to find out what their duties are as consultant for our peer coaches. All directors and supervisors in the region have been trained to be facilitators for these meetings. The families feel empowered through these meetings and has been found to be successful.

Katie had a large Child and Family Team Meeting consisting of 22 family members held in the family home. Jerry was very good in assisting with these trainings. Katie feels like she knows the two families now. Heidi has enjoyed doing them and getting to know the families. She feels the hardest part is getting the goals set. It's hard to keep it to 1-2 hours due to some of the family issues. We are hoping to have all of Region 8 trained by late spring. Nikki has had the chance to attend a CFTM and feels they are very beneficial. For the most part she feels they are wonderful. The families bring out a lot of emotion that has been held in for a long time. She complimented Pam on doing a great job facilitating the meetings.

3. IV-B Coordinator RFP and IV-B Service RFP Update

Penny Pitcock is no longer working for Dodson, Shively & Associates. She is now the Director for Johnson County DCS. The RFP Service Coordinator was reviewed in late December and has been sent back to Central Office. It has not yet been determined who the service coordinator will be for Region 8.

RFP was made public on January 15, 2008. If you are interested, it is posted on the web site. We cannot talk to vendors now since it has been posted. We should be made aware on the selection of our vendor by late spring or first of summer.

4. DCS/DFR Update

The ACS move has been put on hold indefinitely. Central Office is trying to work out the glitches at the Grant County Call Center before they will open up the other call centers. All of our moves and changes have been put on hold. It has not stopped some of the office renovations. Sullivan is almost complete. Mike Goodwin reported they are possibly going to be putting in the data communication today in Sullivan. Clay is in the process of building walls and painting. Vigo is going to be very cramped for space, but will work through the issue. Clay and Sullivan have been using Hamilton Center for their FTMs due to reconstruction and space issues. Vigo has the possibility of using Hamilton Center as well. It will possibly be July before we will continue with the progress of the office situations.

5. Additional Business/Comments

Suzy Cole said Vigo has been very busy participating in FTMs. It has been a very good experience. She is excited to get the new workers coming in.

Nyala Bolen: She passed out information on Kids First Trust Board with Community Partners. They don't have a lot of money and they need more. Discussion was held at the last board meeting she attended to look at re-weighing how distributions were made with funding. They are looking at giving more to rural areas due to cost of providing services. Community Partners can't reach out as much as they are needed due to money. Engagement rate is outstanding compared to the rest of the State. Region 8 is the smallest region they heard from. She reported the families are glad to have the program.

Vigo County Advocacy Center is doing two more trainings in February. On February 14, 2008, a training called Differential Response and Child Neglect by Dr. Tony Loman. Dr. Loman is the Research Director at the Institute of Applied Research in St. Louis. The second video conference is on February 28, 2008 with Steven Sawyer, MSSW, LICSW, CGP and Tim Wright, Psy D on Adolescent and Adult Child Sexual Abusers: Understanding and Preventing Abuse. Nyala passed out information concerning the video conferences that will be available to those attending the meeting. They begin at 3:00 p.m. and last until 5:00 p.m.

Nyala was asked to participate in an ad hoc committee at the State created from a Children's Trust Fund Grant to study placement of CACs in Regions. A second committee is looking at diversifying and trainings in interview techniques (some alternatives to Finding Words). The board Nyala is sitting on is existing advocacy center boards. It's hard to raise money in the Terre Haute community. In other states advocacy centers are subsidized in other ways. In Indiana, we have to raise our own money. She is looking at equipment because a business will contribute to this. She has also been asked to speak to a group of doctors at Union Hospital regarding CAC. This is in conjunction

with Dr. Laskey who will be speaking and addressing the attendees on traumatic child head injuries.

Nyala also reported to the Council about the Access to Recovery Program. The kick-off is February 1, 2008. This is a Vigo County specific program. Vigo County is the first county to have this program. Only seven (7) counties in the state were picked to receive funding for this program. You have to be a resident of Vigo County. Services can come from any place in Region 8. This is a voucher system for individuals that will help for 3 years. It is for:

- a) Individuals recently released from DOC
- b) Pregnant women
- c) Women with dependent children
- d) Individuals addicted to meth—described as having tested positive in the last 60 days

Eligible services include:

- a) Treatment
- b) Detox
- c) Housing
- d) Transportation
- e) Employment assistance
- f) Educational assistance
- g) Child care
- h) Counseling
- i) Parenting

Peggy Weber reported the interviews have occurred for next year's students. April 7, 2008 will be a conference on Ethical issues at Maryland Community Church. Peggy brought information on Black Administrators Conference if anyone interested. She left the brochure with Dave Uberto. Peggy said she met Darla Henry in Pennsylvania recently and she goes around the country working with children on permanency issues to make successful placements. Peggy is working with Hamilton Center on this subject. Darla provides the training. Dave said he was very interested in this as a training possibility for Region 8 and felt this could help with Practice Reform. Peggy thought it would help reach a broad spectrum of people too.

Tiffany from Gibault has been preparing for PRTF. She reported their numbers are up with several parent referrals.

Jody Horstman from Hamilton Center said the Access to Recovery Applications have to be a certified provider. The maximum cost is \$3200 with an average cost of \$1600. There are a maximum number of units. HIP will not be a provider for Hamilton Center due to having to charge co-pay; which would double the price of scale. It takes 3 hours to enroll someone in the HIP program with a staff person assisting the client.

Jody also spoke a little on Managed Medicaid for kids. Vigo County is working with one of the managed care companies. They are continuing to evolve what they are going to authorize and deny. FSSA has the highest denial rate.

She also talked about the MRO Match. Hamilton Center's match for federal funds is being questioned. The way it is working in Indiana is not acceptable. The State will not have as much match money. Hamilton Center will not have enough money to pay for what is not covered with MRO. The providers have done a good job educating legislators.

Angie Atkinson, family representative for H.E.L.P. with Wraparound has started a support group for families along with Rita Kaperak. The families are getting involved and are calling for help. The grant has been wonderful and they are pleased the State has realized families need a voice. The group has started a library for the families. The group is called HELP (Help for Every Loving Parent). Everyone that attends gets a folder with information to assist them. Vermillion County has not been successful with starting their group and Katie asked them if they will contact her. Angie and Rita said if you have the word "support" in your name people will tend to stay away. They changed their name and took the word support out and attendance has improved. Dave asked if there was more that Region 8 can do to get the word out. Angie said she will get with Dave and let him know.

Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA Director, said she is in the process of training 20 new volunteers. They will be up to 70 volunteers in Vigo County very soon. She is trying to get the word out about the CASA volunteers and have their picture put in the Social Section of the Tribune Star.

Janet Daniels, National Youth Advocate Program, is starting training for new foster parents in February. They currently have four (4) open beds. NYAP has two families in Knox and Pike County. They cover the Southwest area of the state. If you have any questions about the program, you can call Janet at 812-895-0042 or 812-891-0046. She will bring brochures next month.

Carmen Young, with the Resource Residential Treatment Center--sister facility to Options, spoke a little about their program. They have an IPS satellite program on grounds. Once they do well, they can go to public schools. They have strong work programs for kids to build skills. All the kids work through a phase program. They have to present before their peers. Empower is more for the girls unit that are cutters. SHAPE is for boys that have issues with courts, battery charges, etc. Most programs run 36 months. Resource just opened a PRTF Unit for boys with an IQ of 70 or above.

Lynn Rump, SW Indiana, has a 188 bed facility on about 88 acres. Always welcome to visit the facility. Their specialty programs revolve around drug abuse and sexual maladaptive children, mental health issues and criminal thinking issues. Trauma treatment for girls has a military structure that promotes respect for community. Asked how frequently in FTM do you incorporate providers? How can providers by more

involved? Katie said it's up to the family on who attends. Pam said the money is an issue for the service providers to attend because they live so far away.

Amanda Ross is doing a Title IV-E program internship and reported it has been a good experience and better than what she thought it would be. Everyone is making her feel welcome.

Mike Baker said he has two new employees coming in the Intake unit. FTMs have gone well.

Katie reported she has been very busy lately. FTMs are great once you do one. The two meetings she had did have providers involved. One of their families told the judge how great the meeting was for them. New staff is helping to decrease the caseload. Diana Newnum was selected as the supervisor for Vermillion County.

Mike Goodwin said moral is high. They are getting a new position. The building is a hazard due to construction, but things are taking shape.

Heidi said Clay County is a hazard as well due to construction. Dave doesn't have an office in the blueprint. The constructor still doesn't have approval to add the office yet. Clay is getting new a caseworker starting February 18th. The truant officer provided a report on how things are going with the At-Risk Attendance Program. Diana Lancaster is the counselor for the program. Diana has really made a difference in the program. She is based out of the Clay Middle School. DCS cases take preference over others.

Pam reported the State Fatality Review Team is getting ready to put out a report in the next 60 days. The group is trying to rally support because they don't have financial backing to produce reports. The purpose is not to count the bodies, but to find out why and how they have died so there can be a prevention program put in place. They would like to promote a program with families that have more than one child. The burden of having multiple children is overwhelming. They would like to work with hospitals and businesses. An example would be those that sell pools. They would give out information on pool safety to reduce the fatalities.

Working with FTMs is really great with enthusiasm and success. It gives the FCM a chance to watch the family in another aspect. The families find out they have resources they can use.

Still working on SUDI and looks like it will happen in summer. Dr. Laskey is looking on funding to provide a book and baby for the training process.

Dave is looking forward to 2008. He is looking forward to continuing the rollout of Practice Reform. Dave would like for the judges to get a better understanding on the direction Region 8 is going. We will be starting to have our meetings every other month from now on.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.